

Machelle Sanders

Secretary of the Department of
Administration



Governor Roy Cooper appointed Machelle Sanders as the Secretary of the N.C. Department of Administration on January 12, 2017.

A native of Belhaven, North Carolina, Sanders brings to the Cooper administration experience in both management and leadership. She is a seasoned pharmaceutical and biotechnology executive who has held the role as vice president of manufacturing and general manager of Biogen's largest and most advanced manufacturing facility in Research Triangle Park (RTP), North Carolina. She also held leadership positions overseeing manufacturing, global quality assurance and quality control functions at Biogen, Purdue Pharmaceuticals, and Diosynth-Akzo Nobel.

A graduate of North Carolina State University, Sanders holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and a Master of Health Administration from Pfeiffer University. As a native North Carolinian, wife and mother of twin daughters, she is passionate about improving the status of women in our state. Some of her work includes creating a Women's Innovation Network at Biogen. After all, as Sanders puts it, "Improving the status of women in North Carolina is not just a woman's issue. This is a family, poverty and economic issue."

Sanders is also a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion and currently is the Chair of the North Carolina Commission on Inclusion and the North Carolina Complete Count Commission. Additionally, she serves on the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homeless Programs (ICCHP), Governor's Advisory Council Commission on Aging, Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/ Latino Affairs, North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and the NC State Board of Visitors.

Her passion to help improve the lives of North Carolinians today and for a better tomorrow, has led to her present role as Secretary of the Department of Administration. She oversees the state agency whose mission is to provide high-quality services effectively, efficiently, and economically to its customers: the citizens, agencies and communities of North Carolina.